

Letter Expressing Support for Small Donor Public Funding in New York

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write to strongly encourage your continued active leadership in transforming New York State's broken campaign finance system into a national model in the post-Citizens United era. We write as politically active citizens with a firsthand understanding of our country's current money and politics laws and we believe dramatic change is needed so that our proud democracy lives up to the values of being "of, by, and for the people."

New York's national prominence ensures that a dynamic reform proposal will send a strong message to Washington, D.C., that real change is possible, especially now as we have just witnessed, from coast to coast, an election awash in unprecedented amounts of money. At the heart of such change must be the establishment of a citizen-led, small donor-driven campaign fundraising system. Such a paradigm, already in place in New York City and in several states, would encourage candidates to rely on everyday voters for their campaign funds, instead of spending extensive energy and precious time courting a handful of affluent campaign donors or turning to an army of professional influence-seekers and deep pocket vested interests.

It would broaden civic participation, invite citizens back into our democracy and strengthen the ties between officeholders and their constituents. Importantly, it would send a signal that New Yorkers could trust that their elected officials were working for them. Furthermore, it would be a clear break from failed approaches that employ the regulatory tools of contribution limits and disclosure without the core reform of empowering voters through small donor matching funds.

Our nation must move down such a path if we expect government to be an instrument for effectively addressing the many critical issues we face going forward. Americans from all walks of life deserve a democracy that lives up to our bedrock principle of one person, one vote. Your leadership will not only benefit New Yorkers, but give great hope to all of us who treasure, and depend upon, a robust American democracy.

Sincerely,

Naomi Aberly
Robert Abernethy
David Abromowitz

Ravin Agrawal
Mark Alderman
Ann Allan

Forrest Alogna
JP and Maggie Austin
Jean Bailey
Allison Barlow
Adam Barr
Anne Bartley
Georgia Berner
Joan Bingham
James Black
Bob Bowditch
Christy Brown
Mark Buell and Susie Tompkins Buell
Justin Buell
Anna Burger
Brad Burnham
David Calone
Alison Carlson
Marcy Carsey
Ellen Chesler and Matthew Mallow
Ben Cohen
Steve Cohen
Jon Cooper
Matt Cutts
Alan Davis
David desJardins
Robert Donovan
Patricia Duff
Farhad Ebrahimi
Doug Edwards
Paul Eggerman
Jeff Fergus
Chris Findlater
Larry Fish
Lenore Fox
David Friedman
David Gail
James Gollin
Barry Goodman
Matt Gorman
Alan Grayson
Carol Hamilton
Nick Hanauer
Paul Harstad
Alan Hassenfeld
Christie Hefner
Anne Hess

Arnold Hiatt
David Hill
Leo Hindery, Jr.
Kristin Hull
Orlan Johnson
Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney
Ricki and Joel Kanter
Craig Kaplan
Rochelle Kaplan
Betsy Krieger
Mary Lang Sollinger
Michael Lawson
Richard Lenter
Ken Lewis
Arthur Lipson
Greg McCurdy
Anna McKay
Robert McKay
David McKay
Linda McKay
Terrence Meck
Todd Michaels
Margot Milliken
Roger Milliken
Ethan Nadelmann
Grace Newton
Jo Ousterhout
Spencer Overton
Alan Patricof
Shaunda Patterson-Strachan
Carol Pensky
Doug Phelps
Steve Phillips
Valerie Picard
Henry Pincus
Adeel Qalbani
Catherine Raphael
Rob Reiner
Diane Robertson
Fran Rodgers
Charles Rodgers
Marsha Rosenbaum
Paul Rudd
Cynthia Ryan
Vin Ryan and Carla Meyer
Bettylu Saltzman

Mike Schell
Stephanie Schlatter
Paul Schmitz
Joshua Schwartz
Linda Shoemaker
Claire Silberman
Stephen Silberstein
Ian Simmons
Dixon Slingerland
George Soros
Jonathan Soros
William Soskin
Pat Stryker
Ellen and Steve Susman
S. Donald Sussman
Ritchie Tabachnick
Margery Tabankin
Deborah Taylor Ashford
Aaron Tidman
Bill Titelman
Beth Tomasello
Ted Trimpa
Grace Tsao-Wu
Susan Van Dolsen
Phillippe and Katherine Villers
Paul Vranicar
John Welch
Linda Whitlock
Carol Winograd, MD
Adam Wolfensohn
Al Yates
Joe Zimlich
Catherine Zinn